

2012 -- H 7140

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

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A N A C T

RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY -- ANIMAL ABUSER REGISTRY

Introduced By: Representatives Petrarca, Corvese, Winfield, Keable, and Azzinaro

Date Introduced: January 17, 2012

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 4-1 of the General Laws entitled "Cruelty to Animals" is hereby
2 amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **4-1-41. Animal abuse registry.** – (a) For purposes of this section, an "animal abuser"
4 means a person over eighteen (18) years of age who has been convicted of an offense defined as a
5 felony in this chapter or in the comparable laws of another state.

6 (b) Any animal abuser physically within the boundaries of this state for more than ten
7 (10) consecutive days shall register with the chief of police of the city or town in which the
8 animal abuser is located before the end of the eleventh (11th) day in the state.

9 (c) Any previously-registered animal abuser shall reregister with the chief of police of the
10 city or town in which the animal abuser is located no later than ten (10) days after moving to a
11 new location within the state.

12 (d) The animal abuser shall provide the following registration information:

13 (1) The legal name and any other names or aliases that the animal abuser is using or has
14 used;

15 (2) The date of birth of the animal abuser;

16 (3) The social security number of the animal abuser;

17 (4) The current address or location of the animal abuser;

18 (5) The place of employment of the animal abuser;

19 (6) The animal protection offense for which the animal abuser was convicted; and

1 (7) The date and place of the animal protection offense conviction of the animal abuser.

2 (e) When an animal abuser registers, the chief of police shall obtain:

3 (1) A photograph of the animal abuser and a complete set of the animal abuser's
4 fingerprints; and

5 (2) A description of any tattoos, scars or other distinguishing features on the animal
6 abuser's body that would assist in identifying the animal abuser.

7 (f) Following an animal abuser's initial registration pursuant to the provisions of this
8 section, an animal abuser shall annually renew the animal abuser's registration with the chief of
9 police prior to December 31 of each subsequent calendar year for a period of fifteen (15) years.

10 (g) An animal abuser who intentionally or knowingly fails to comply with the registration
11 requirements, or provides false information when complying with the registration requirements
12 set forth in this section, is guilty of a felony and shall be fined not exceeding one thousand five
13 hundred dollars (\$1,500) or imprisoned not more than two (2) years, or both.

14 (h) Each chief of police shall maintain a local registry of animal abusers in the chief of
15 police's jurisdiction required to register pursuant to this section.

16 (1) The chief of police shall forward all registration information obtained from animal
17 abusers to the attorney general.

18 (2) Within ten (10) days of receiving initial registration information from an animal
19 abuser, the chief of police shall contact every residence, school, humane society, animal shelter
20 and any other business within a half mile radius of the animal abuser's residence or location, and
21 provide them with the animal abuser's registration information, with the exception of the animal
22 abuser's social security number.

23 (i) The attorney general shall maintain a central registry of animal abusers required to
24 register pursuant to the provisions of this section. The central registry of animal abusers shall be
25 made available to the public through internet access, telephone access, written access and in-
26 person access. All of the information contained in an animal abuser's registration, with the
27 exception of the animal abuser's social security number, shall be made available. Records of each
28 animal abuser's registration shall be maintained for the duration of the fifteen (15) year period in
29 which the animal abuser is required to be registered.

30 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on July 1, 2012.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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1 This act would create an animal abuser registry and would provide for penalties for
2 failure to register.

3 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2012.

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